Statistical methods:

Data were coded and entered using the statistical package SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 25. Data was summarized using mean, standard deviation, median, minimum and maximum in quantitative data and using frequency (count) and relative frequency (percentage) for categorical data. Comparisons between quantitative variables were done using the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests. For comparison of serial measurements within same patients paired t test was used in normally distributed quantitative variables while non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test was used for non-normally distributed quantitative variables (Chan, 2003a). Correlations between quantitative variables were done using Pearson or Spearman correlation coefficient (Chan, 2003b). Linear regression
analysis was done to predict changes in different parameters using baseline data *(Chan, 2004)*. P-values less than 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

**Ref:-**

